

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for creating a standard measurement protocol for a tomographic imaging system, comprising the steps of:
at a computerized interface with which an operator can interact, compiling a planning representation of a standard anatomical subject, having anatomical features, as a statistical average of a plurality of actual objects in respective patients each corresponding to said standard anatomical object, and displaying a said planning representation of a said standard anatomical object including said anatomical features;
by interacting through said interface with the displayed planning representation, defining a spatial position, relative to said standard Anatomical object, of a standard tomographic imaging area in said planning representation; and
generating and storing a standard measurement protocol comprising parameters associated with said standard imaging area and a reference that designates said standard Anatomical object.

2. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of generating and storing said standard measurement protocol comprises storing parameters that define said spatial position of said standard imaging area.

Claim 3 has been amended as follows:

3. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of generating and storing a standard measurement protocol further comprises including in said standard measurement protocol parameters for operating said

tomographic imaging system to obtain an image, within said standard imaging area, of a portion of a patient ~~an actual object~~, corresponding to said standard anatomical object, in said tomographic imaging system.

Claim 4 has been amended as follows:

4. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said tomographic imaging system is a magnetic resonance imaging apparatus, and wherein the step of generating and storing a standard measurement protocol further comprises including designation of a pulse sequence for said magnetic resonance imaging apparatus for obtaining an image, within said standard imaging area, of a portion of a patient ~~an actual object~~, corresponding to said standard anatomical object, in said magnetic resonance imaging apparatus.

Claim 5 has been cancelled.

5. (Cancelled)

Claim 6 has been amended as follows:

6. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 5 1 comprising displaying geometrical features of said standard anatomical subject as said anatomical features.

Claims 7-14 have been cancelled.

7 -14. (Cancelled)

Claim 15 has been amended as follows:

15. (Currently amended) A method for planning positioning of an imaging area in an actual object in a tomographic imaging system, comprising the steps of:

placing said actual object patient in said tomographic imaging system and obtaining data representing features of said actual object using said tomographic imaging system;

making a standard measurement protocol available to a computer and in said standard measurement protocol in said computer, consulting an atlas to obtain a standard anatomical object, said standard measurement protocol defining a spatial position of a standard imaging area with reference to a standard object, said standard measurement protocol referencing a dataset representing features of said standard object;

in said computer, determining a geometrical relation between said features of said actual object patient and said features of said standard object, from said dataset representing said features of said actual object and said dataset representing said features of said standard object;

creating an actual object-specific measurement protocol, wherein said imaging area is positioned relative to said actual object, by modifying said standard measurement protocol dependent on said geometrical relation; and

using said object-specific measurement protocol to obtain an image of said actual object within said image area in said tomographic imaging system.

16. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 15 wherein said actual object is a patient and wherein said standard object is a standard anatomical object, and wherein said features represented by the respective datasets are anatomical features.

17. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 15 wherein the step of modifying said standard measurement protocol to create said object-specific measurement protocol comprises positioning said imaging area relative to said actual object identically to a position of said standard imaging area relative to said standard object.

Claim 18 has been amended as follows:

18. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 15 comprising, within said standard measurement protocol, defining respective spatial positions for a variety of standard imaging area areas with reference to said standard object.

19. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 18 comprising obtaining a variety of images of said actual object using said object-specific measurement protocol, corresponding to said variety of standard imaging areas.

Claim 20 has been cancelled.

20. (Cancelled)

Claim 21 has been amended as follows:

21. (Currently amended) ~~A method as claimed in claim 15 for planning positioning of an imaging area of a patient in a tomographical imaging system, comprising:~~

placing said patient in said tomographic imaging system and obtaining data representing anatomical features of said patient using said tomographic imaging system;

generating said standard object making a standard measurement protocol available to a computer and in said standard measurement protocol in said computer, compiling a standard anatomical object as a statistical compilation of data from a plurality of actual objects of respective patients each corresponding to said standard anatomical object;

in said computer, determining a geometrical relation between said anatomical features of said patient and said anatomical features of said standard anatomical object, from said dataset representing said anatomical features of said patient and said dataset representing said anatomical features of said standard anatomical object;

creating an actual object-specific measurement protocol, wherein said imaging area is positioned relative to said patient, by modifying said standard measurement protocol dependent on said geometrical relation; and

using said object-specific measurement protocol to obtain an image of said patient within said image area in said tomographic imaging system.

Claim 22 has been amended as follows:

22. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 21 comprising generating said standard anatomical object in said standard measurement protocol as an average of said plurality of actual objects of respective patients.

Claim 23 has been amended as follows:

23. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 15 comprising generating said geometrical relation by correlating said dataset representing features of said ~~actual object~~ patient and said dataset representing anatomical features of said standard anatomical object.

24. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 15 comprising, in said standard measurement protocol, defining a position and size of said standard imaging area.

25. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 15 comprising, in said standard measurement protocol, defining a number and thickness of image slices in said standard imaging area.

Claim 26 has been amended as follows:

26. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 15 wherein said tomographic imaging system is a magnetic resonance system, and comprising including a pulse sequence, in said standard measurement protocol, for operating said magnetic resonance apparatus using said ~~object-specific~~ patient-specific measurement protocol.

Add the following new claims.

27. (New) A method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the step of modifying said standard measurement protocol to create said object-specific measurement protocol comprises positioning said imaging area relative to said patient identically to a position of said standard imaging area relative to said standard anatomical object.

28. (New) A method as claimed in claim 21 comprising, within said standard measurement protocol, defining respective spatial positions for a variety of standard imaging areas with reference to said standard anatomical object.

29. (New) A method as claimed in claim 28 comprising obtaining a variety of images of said patient using said object-specific measurement protocol, corresponding to said variety of standard imaging areas.

30. (New) A method as claimed in claim 21 comprising generating said geometrical relation by correlating said dataset representing features of said patient and said dataset representing anatomical features of said standard anatomical object.

31. (New) A method as claimed in claim 21 comprising, in said standard measurement protocol, defining a position and size of said standard imaging area.

32. (New) A method as claimed in claim 21 comprising, in said standard measurement protocol, defining a number and thickness of image slices in said standard imaging area.

33. (New) A method as claimed in claim 21 wherein said tomographic imaging system is a magnetic resonance system, and comprising including a pulse sequence, in said standard measurement protocol, for operating said magnetic resonance apparatus using said patient-specific measurement protocol.